

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2001

SENATE BILL

No. 380

Introduced by Senator Murray

February 21, 2001

An act to amend Section 11325.23 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to CalWORKs, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 380, as amended, Murray. CalWORKs: community college students: study time.

Existing federal law provides for allocation of federal funds through the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant program to eligible states. Existing law provides for the CalWORKs program for the allocation of federal funds received through the TANF program, under which each county provides cash assistance and other benefits to qualified low-income families.

Existing law requires certain participants in the CalWORKs program to participate in certain welfare-to-work activities. One of the types of activities in which CalWORKs recipients may participate are education and training activities.

Existing provisions of CalWORKs require that an adult recipient in a one-parent assistance unit participate in welfare-to-work activities for 32 hours each week.

This bill would allow an adult recipient in a one-parent assistance unit who is a community college student to ~~apply an unspecified number of hours, per week, one hour of study for each unit of coursework taken~~ toward the 32 hour per week requirement. By expanding the scope of responsibility for the administration of the CalWORKs program, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Existing law continuously appropriates funds from the General Fund for the provision of benefits to eligible recipients through the CalWORKs program. This bill would make certain individuals eligible for the receipt of benefits under that program if they meet the requirements established by this bill, and, by expanding the scope of eligibility for benefits under the CalWORKs program, this bill would make an appropriation.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: ²/₃. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 11325.23 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 11325.23. (a) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any
4 student who, at the time he or she is required to participate under
5 this article pursuant to Section 11320.3, is enrolled in any
6 undergraduate degree or certificate program that leads to
7 employment may continue in that program within the time period
8 specified in subdivisions (a) and (d) of Section 11454 if he or she
9 is making satisfactory progress in that program, the county
10 determines that continuing in the program is likely to lead to
11 self-supporting employment for that recipient, and the
12 welfare-to-work plan reflects that determination.
13 (2) Any individual who possesses a baccalaureate degree shall
14 not be eligible to participate under this section unless the
15 individual is pursuing a California regular classroom teaching
16 credential in a college or university with an approved teacher
17 credential preparation program.



(3) (A) Subject to the limitation provided in subdivision (f), a program shall be determined to lead to employment if it is on a list of programs that the county welfare department and local education agencies or providers agree lead to employment. The list shall be agreed to annually, with the first list completed no later than January 31, 1998. By January 1, 2000, all educational providers shall report data regarding programs on the list for the purposes of the report card established under Section 15037.1 of the Unemployment Insurance Code for the programs to remain on the list.

(B) For students not in a program on the list prepared under subparagraph (A), the county shall determine if the program leads to employment. The recipient shall be allowed to continue in the program within the time period specified in subdivisions (a) and (d) of Section 11454 if the recipient demonstrates to the county that the program will lead to self-supporting employment for that recipient and the documentation is included in the welfare-to-work plan.

(C) If participation in educational or vocational training, as determined by the number of hours required for classroom, laboratory, or internship activities, is not at least 32 hours, the county shall require concurrent participation in work activities pursuant to subdivisions (a) to (j), inclusive, of Section 11322.6 and Section 11325.22. An adult recipient in a one-parent assistance unit who is a community college student may apply ~~hours of study toward the 32-hour per week requirement, per week, one hour of study for each unit of coursework taken, toward the 32-hour week welfare-to-work activities requirement~~ contained in subdivision (a) of Section 11322.8.

(b) Participation in the self-initiated education or vocational training program shall be reflected in the welfare-to-work plan required by Section 11325.21. The welfare-to-work plan shall provide that whenever an individual ceases to participate in, refuses to attend regularly, or does not maintain satisfactory progress in the self-initiated program, the individual shall participate under this article in accordance with Section 11325.22.

(c) Any person whose previously approved self-initiated education or training program is interrupted for reasons that meet the good cause criteria specified in subdivision (f) of Section 11320.3 may resume participation in the same program if the

1 participant maintained good standing in the program while
2 participating and the self-initiated program continues to meet the
3 approval criteria. The county shall adjust the completion date of
4 the program, accounting for the time of absence to allow the
5 participant a cumulative timeframe outlined in subdivision (a).

6 (d) Supportive services reimbursement shall be provided for
7 any participant in a self-initiated training or education program
8 approved under this subdivision. This reimbursement shall be
9 provided if no other source of funding for those costs is available.
10 Any offset to supportive services payments shall be made in
11 accordance with subdivision (e) of Section 11323.4.

12 (e) Any student who, at the time he or she is required to
13 participate under this article pursuant to Section 11320.3, has been
14 enrolled and is making satisfactory progress in a degree or
15 certificate program, but does not meet the criteria set forth in
16 subdivision (a), shall have until the beginning of the next
17 educational semester or quarter break to continue his or her
18 educational program if he or she continues to make satisfactory
19 progress. At the time the educational break occurs, the individual
20 is required to participate pursuant to Section 11320.1. The time
21 spent in the educational program shall count towards the time
22 limits and community service requirements established for
23 recipients in Sections 11320.1 and 11454. A recipient not expected
24 to complete the program by the next break may continue his or her
25 education under the timelines in subdivision (a), provided he or
26 she transfers at the end of the current quarter or semester to a
27 program that qualifies under that subdivision, the county
28 determines that participation is likely to lead to self-supporting
29 employment of the recipient, and the welfare-to-work plan reflects
30 that determination.

31 (f) Any degree, certificate, or vocational program offered by a
32 private postsecondary training provider shall not be approved
33 under this section unless the program is either approved or
34 exempted by the appropriate state regulatory agency and the
35 program is in compliance with all other provisions of law.

36 SEC. 2. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government
37 Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this
38 act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local
39 agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant
40 to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title

1 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for
2 reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000),
3 reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims
4 Fund.

O

